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Newspapers and other Periodicals

PUBLISHED IN SALEM,

FROM

1768 to 1856.

BY GILBERT L. STREETER.

SALEM:

WM. IVES AND GEO. W. PEASE PRINTERS.

OBSERVER OFFICE.

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[From the Proceedings of the Essex Institute.]

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NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS OF SALEM.

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WE propose to give some account of the several newspapers and other periodicals, which have been published in Salem since the first introduction of the art of printing into this town until the present time. The review will carry us back nearly a century, to the period immediately preceding the war of the Revolution; and in glancing at the special purposes of the various periodicals since that time, we shall obtain glimpses of the successive states of public opinion in this place. The list of serials during these years is a long one, embracing *fifty* separate and distinct publications, of various degrees of interest and importance. We shall mention them in the order of their commencement, designating each by its appropriate numeral.

Salem was the third town in the Colonies, in the order of time, to enjoy the advantages of a public printing press. It was preceded in this respect by both Cambridge and Boston. The former place contained a printing press as early as 1639, and as the infant University was located there, as well as the local government of the colony, the persons concerned in it were encouraged by grants of land from the General Court. But the Puritan authorities, although ready to patronize this enterprise to some extent, still regarded the freedom of printing with a jealous eye, and accordingly, in 1662, two of the most worthy and highly approved of the clergymen of the colony were authorized by the General Court to act as licensers of the press. Thus the dispensations of grace on the part of the authorities in the matter of land were not without their equivalents in the more important matter of free printing. The press in *Boston* was first established in 1674, in accordance with leave specially granted by the General Court, which had previously ordered, in 1664, that there should be no other press than that at Cambridge.

From this time until the introduction of the printing business into Salem was nearly a century. In the mean time the press had been relieved from the supervision and control of the clergy, and its absolute independence was nearly established. Several newspapers had been commenced in Boston, and there was a general disposition to encourage and sustain such publications.*

The person who undertook to establish the printing business in Salem was SAMUEL HALL, a young man, a native of Medford, and one who, from his qualities of mind and energy of character, was well suited to perform the task of a pioneer in this matter. He was a practical printer, and had learned his trade of his uncle, Daniel Fowle, who was the first printer in New Hampshire. Before coming to Salem he had been concerned with Mrs. Anne Franklin, sister-in-law of Benjamin Franklin, in the publication of the Newport (R. I.) Mercury, a newspaper originally established by James Franklin, and which has been continued until this time.

Mr. Hall opened an office here in April 1768. It was located on Main street, a few doors above the Town House—about where Kinsman's new building is situated. This was then, as now, near the centre of business.†

* The first attempt to establish a newspaper in North America, was made, in 1690, when (Sept. 25) a single number of a small sheet was printed in Boston, by Richard Pierce, for Benj. Harris. It was condemned at once by the public authorities, and it is believed that a second number was never issued. The only copy known to be in existence is in the State Paper office, in London, where it has been examined by Rev. Joseph B. Felt. The first newspaper actually established in the country was the Boston News-Letter, commenced April 24, 1704, by John Campbell, the postmaster of that town.

† The Town House was a wooden building of two stories, next above the First Church, on the spot between the present church and the parapet of the railroad tunnel. It was where the town meetings were usually held, (in the lower story) and was also occupied, in the second story, as a Court house. It was afterwards called the State House, as the Provincial Assembly of Massachusetts convened therein in 1774, with John Hancock as president. It was a building of humble pretensions, its chief claim to notice arising from the circumstance that it was a *painted* building, which was an uncommon distinction in those days. In front of the building, extending on either side the door, was a wooden bench, where the elderly men of the town were accustomed to assemble to gossip and converse on public and private matters.

1. Mr. Hall soon resolved to commence a paper here, and in July of the same year issued proposals for publishing one to be entitled *THE ESSEX GAZETTE*, to be issued weekly, on Tuesday, at 6s. 8d., per annum. The prospectus was full and explicit in regard to the character of the proposed paper; and as indicating the spirit in which the enterprise was started, we quote the following passage :

“ I shall exert myself to obtain as general and fresh a Collection of News as will lay in my Power, both Foreign and Domestic, and insert it with accuracy and in due order; and I shall at all times assiduously endeavor to procure and carefully publish, as I may have room, any Compositions that may have a tendency to promote Religion, Virtue, Industry, good Order, a due sense of the Rights and Liberties of our Country, with the Importance of true and genuine principles of patriotism, and whatever may serve to enliven and animate us in our known Loyalty and Affection to our gracious Sovereign. In short, any Pieces that may be productive of Public Good, or contribute to the innocent Amusement and Entertainment of my Readers, will be inserted with Pleasure; and any writings of a Contrary Nature, will, if offered for Insertion, be instantly rejected.”

These comprehensive, patriotic, and emphatic statements of his intentions, with more of a similar character, constituted Mr. Hall's introduction to his readers. And all that he here promised he thoroughly performed, for he was prompt and faithful in the execution of all his contracts, devoting himself with great energy and spirit to the discharge of his duties.

The first number of the paper appeared Aug. 2, 1768, and was a very creditable publication in its typographical execution, and the general character of its contents. It was printed upon a crown sheet, folio, 10 x 16 inches, three columns to the page. This diminutive sheet, less than half the size of the Gazette of to-day, was spoken of in the prospectus as “four large pages, printed in folio.” It was doubtless considered as large at that time. The head was adorned by a rude wood cut, comprising the figures of two Indians, with a codfish overhead, and a dove with a sprig in its bill in the centre. This device bears some resemblance to the Essex County seal, and was probably intended to be emblematical of peace, the fisheries, and successful emigration.* The head-line assured the reader, in the common phraseology of that day, that the sheet contained “the

*A portion of this device is contained in the seal of the city of Salem.

freshest advices, both foreign and domestic." It bore as a motto a quotation from Horace, "*Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.*"

The contents of the paper were such as were looked for in public prints at that time, chiefly items of political news from various parts of the world, very concisely stated, and selected with care and good judgment. Foreign news occupied a large share of the columns. Domestic news was given simply, under the names of the several towns in the colonies, whence it was received. A few advertisements filled out the sheet. The contents were mostly selected, but few original pieces, either editorial or contributed, appearing in the columns in those days. The public did not estimate so highly at that time as they seem to now, the off-hand remarks, speculations, and effusions generally, of editors and their correspondents.*

Mr. Hall was eminently qualified for the task he had undertaken. He possessed business talents, enterprise, ability, editorial tact and judgment, and withal sympathized entirely with the state of the public mind at that time with respect to the mother country. He had commenced his paper at an important season. The causes were then actively at work which soon eventuated in the Revolution. A spirit of independence was growing up in the breasts of the people, and the principles of civil and political liberty were undergoing a thorough discussion. With this condition of popular feeling Mr. Hall sympathized warmly and earnestly.

Subscribers to his Gazette were obtained, not only in this town, but also doubtless in most of the principal places in the colony; for a newspaper at that period was a much more important fact than at the present day, when such publications abound in all directions. There were then but five papers in the state, all of which were in Boston.† There was none at the east-

* Among the contributors to Mr. Hall's paper, was Col. Timothy Pickering jr. He published a series of able and elaborate articles upon the importance of a reorganization of the Militia, which had great influence in arousing attention to the subject, and which suggested complete plans for increasing the efficiency of that branch of the public service. His father, Dea. Timothy Pickering, also frequently communicated with Mr. Hall's readers, usually to rebuke some growing evil in the community, or to encourage some good work.

† The News-Letter, Evening Post, Gazette, Chronicle, and Advertiser.

ward, except at Portsmouth. Mr. Hall's eastern subscribers were supplied by a post-rider, who left the office on publication mornings for the towns between here and Newburyport, depositing the papers on the way.* To obtain the most recent news from Boston he incurred the expense of a special messenger from that town, on the previous day, who brought the latest papers. The news from New York was a week old, from Philadelphia a fortnight, and from London two months.

In 1772, Mr. Hall admitted his younger brother, Ebenezer, into partnership with him. Their business connection continued until the death of Ebenezer, in Cambridge, Feb. 1776, aged 27.

The Essex Gazette was published here nearly seven years, a period which embraced the most important events that immediately preceded the Revolution. All the great questions which agitated the colonies during that time were discussed in its columns. The odious taxes imposed by the king—the non-importation agreements—the Boston Massacre—the Boston Port Bill—the Tea troubles—the doings of the people in their town meetings, and other primary assemblies—the popular hatred of the officers of the crown, and other similar topics, were laid before Mr. Hall's readers in the succession of their occurrence.

In October, 1770, an attempt was made to injure the subscription of the paper, on account of an alleged partiality in its columns towards the non-importation agreements. But the effort was unsuccessful, and seems to have resulted in the increase rather than diminution of the list. The number of subscribers at this time was about seven hundred.

As indicative of the spirit of the paper, we may quote an article which appeared March 5, 1771. This was the anniversary of the Massacre in State street, Boston. The columns on this occasion were draped in black. On the first page was a

* Among the most active distributors of Mr. Hall's print was Thomas Diman. This person's name is often mentioned by our oldest citizens when the topic of ancient carriers is introduced. He set out every Tuesday, at eight o'clock, for the towns on the Eastern route as far as Newburyport, dispensing his news to eager inquirers all along his way. They looked upon him as an important personage in the service of gratifying their curiosity. His employment wore off the corners of his self-diffidence, and rendered him not at all bashful among "the head men," to whose pleasure he so much contributed. Felt's Annals.

mourning tablet, surrounded by heavy black lines, upon which was inscribed the following animated declaration :

AS A SOLEMN AND PERPETUAL MEMORIAL :

Of the Tyranny of the British Administration of Government in the years 1768, 1769, and 1770 :

Of the fatal and destructive Consequences of quartering Armies, in Time of Peace, in populous cities :

Of the ridiculous Policy, and infamous Absurdity, of supporting *Civil Government* by a *Military Force* :

Of the great Duty and Necessity of firmly opposing Despotism at its first Approaches :

Of the detestable Principles and arbitrary Conduct of those *Ministers* in Britain who advised, and of their *Tools* in America who desired, the Introduction of a Standing Army in this Province in the Year 1768 :

Of the irrefragible Proof which those Ministers themselves thereby produced, that the Civil Government, as by them administered, was weak, wicked and tyrannical :

Of the vile Ingratitude and abominable Wickedness of every *American*, who abetted and encouraged, either in Thought, Word, or Deed, the establishment of a Standing Army among his Countrymen :

Of the unaccountable Conduct of those *Civil Governors*, the immediate Representatives of his Majesty, who, while the *Military* were triumphantly insulting the whole LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, and while the blood of the massacred Inhabitants was flowing in the Streets, persisted in repeatedly disclaiming all Authority of relieving the People, by any the least Removal of the Troops ;

And of the savage Cruelty of the IMMEDIATE PERPETRATORS,
Be it forever Remembered,

That this Day, THE FIFTH OF MARCH, is the Anniversary of
PRESTON'S MASSACRE — IN KING STREET — BOSTON — NEW
ENGLAND — 1770.

In which Five of his Majesty's Subjects were slain and six wounded,
By the Discharge of a Number of Muskets from a Party of Soldiers
under the Command of Capt. THOMAS PRESTON.

GOD Save the People !

Salem, March 5, 1771.

In May, 1775, soon after the Concord fight—a full account of which, as well as of Leslie's invasion, etc., had appeared in the Gazette—Mr. Hall transferred the publication of his paper from Salem to Cambridge, for political purposes. The last number issued here was dated May 2, and the next number, in Cambridge, May 12. The office was in a building

of the College, Stoughton Hall. The title was then enlarged to "The New England Chronicle or Essex Gazette." This removal was made "at the Desire of many respectable Gentlemen of the Honorable Provincial Congress"—with whom Mr. Hall was in high favor. The paper was continued in Cambridge until the Evacuation of Boston by the British, when it was removed thither, and at the same time the title of "Essex Gazette" was dropped.

Before Messrs. Hall left Salem, their printing office was burnt out by the great fire of October, 1774, which destroyed a meeting house, custom house, eight dwellings, fourteen stores, and several barns and out buildings.* The office was subsequently located in the brick building recently incorporated into Dr. Fisk's brick block near the depot.

2. THE SALEM GAZETTE AND NEWBURY AND NEWBURY-PORT ADVERTISER. Before Mr. Hall left town another newspaper was commenced, July 1, 1774, with the foregoing elaborate title. It was published by Ezekiel Russell, from Boston, an unsuccessful printer, who had been an unsuccessful auctioneer also. His antecedents were those of a tory. In 1771 he had published in Boston a small paper called "The Censor," which was in the interest of the loyal party, and soon expired. He had also been known in 1773 as the printer of a handbill entitled "The Tradesmen's Protest against the proceedings of the Merchants relative to the new Importation of Tea." This handbill excited so much feeling among the patriotic merchants and tradesmen, that at a large town meeting in Faneuil Hall the printer and the authors of it were pronounced as "detestable," and the protest itself as "false, scandalous and base." Mr. Russell's office in Salem was "in Ruck street, near the State House†"—somewhere on Washington street, near the depot, we presume. The headline of the paper announced that it was "A Weekly, Political, Commercial and Entertaining Paper—Influenced neither by Court or Country." But the country decided that it was influenced by the Court. The editor was suspected of a bias in favor of the British, probably on account of his previous course in Boston, and the paper accordingly terminated in a few months an unpopular career.

*The meeting house destroyed was Rev. Dr. Whitaker's, which stood on King street, where Dr. Treadwell's building now is. The Custom House was just above. †See Note on page 4.

3. THE AMERICAN GAZETTE, OR THE CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL. This was the title of another paper by Mr. Russell, the author of the previous one; and like that it failed to command public confidence and support. It was published during the Revolution, commencing June 19, 1776, and closing in a few weeks. It was nominally published by John Rogers, at Mr. Russell's office; but as Rogers was merely Russell's journeyman, and owned neither press nor types, the latter was doubtless the true proprietor. The printing office at this time was near the upper end of Main street. The paper was published weekly, on Tuesday, at 8s. a year. The device at the head of the paper, coarsely cut in wood, was that of an open journal, supported by two figures, one, that of fame with her trumpet, and the other, an Indian with his bows and arrows. Beneath the volume was a ship under sail.

Some time after the suspension of this paper, Mr. Russell removed to Danvers, and printed for a few years near the Bell Tavern, and then returned to Boston. There he continued the printing business, in a small way, until his death in 1796, at the age of 52.

Mr. Russell seems to have experienced through life a constant succession of the reverses of fortune. Besides the fruitless efforts we have mentioned, he had been a publisher of the Portsmouth Mercury, in company with Thomas Furber, and that paper continued but three years. It is said that Mr. Russell's *wife* was the "better half" of his family, assisting as a practical printer in his office, composing popular ballads for publication, and assuming the business upon his death.

4. THE SALEM GAZETTE AND GENERAL ADVERTISER. For nearly five years during the Revolution there was no paper in Salem. But in 1780, Mrs. Mary Crouch, widow of a printer in Charleston, S. C., removed hither with her press and types, and Dec. 6, 1780, issued a prospectus, in the name of "Mary Crouch and company," for the publication of "the Salem Gazette and General Advertiser." For this purpose they announced "an elegant assortment of type and printing materials," and stated their purpose to relate such matters as should refer "to the safety and welfare of the United States, to the Liberties and Independence of which the Salem Gazette will be ever sacredly devoted." The first number of the paper was dated Jan'y 2, 1781. It was of the crown size, issued weekly at 50 cts. a quarter. The paper was more miscellaneous than its predecessors had been. It commenced the

publication of stories, tales, and other entertaining articles.

Mrs. Crouch exhibited spirit and enterprize, but was unable to succeed with the paper, which lasted only nine months, closing Oct. 11 of the same year. She assigned as reasons for the stoppage, "the want of sufficient assistance, and the impossibility of obtaining house room for herself and family to reside near her business." Her printing office was at the corner of Derby and Hardy sts. Mrs. Couch afterwards removed to Providence, her native place.

5. THE SALEM GAZETTE. In just a week after the close of Mrs. Crouch's paper, *Samuel Hall* again entered upon a career as publisher in Salem. He had returned from Boston, and probably bought Mrs. Crouch's materials. He commenced a new paper entitled "The Salem Gazette," the first number of which was dated Oct. 18, 1781. It was of the size and general character of his previous paper. He continued the publication of this series of Gazettes for a little more than four years, enlarging the sheet in the third volume, and bringing it to a close in this town, Nov. 22, 1785. At that time he removed the paper to Boston.

In finally terminating his connection with Salem, Mr. Hall stated that he did so only under the pressure of stern necessity. His business had been materially injured by a Tax upon Advertisements, which had been imposed by the Legislature the previous summer. This tax, in conjunction with the decline of trade, had operated so disastrously as to deprive him of nearly three-quarters of the income of his paper from that source, and on this account he accepted the advice of friends, who recommended his removal to Boston. The contracted circulation of the paper, and the great expense attending its publication in Salem, he said, rendered a burdensome tax upon his advertising columns insupportable. The expense of procuring intelligence from Boston alone, by special messenger, was so great, that to defray it he would gladly have given more than half the profits of all the newspapers circulated in this town.

The tax on advertisements, of which Mr. Hall complained so bitterly, was voted by the legislature, July 2, 1785, and had elicited an outcry of indignation from nearly all the papers in the states. It was imposed to aid in liquidating the war debt incurred during the Revolution. It required the payment of *six pence* on each advertisement of 12 lines or less, and *one shilling* on those of 20 or less, and so on in proportion. This act was denounced in severe terms as an infringement of the

liberty of the press, as the "Bostonian Stamp Act," &c. When the law went into operation, Mr. Hall spoke of it in the Gazette as follows :

"No printer can now advertise, even in his *own* paper, any books or pieces of *piety or devotion*, not excepting the HOLY BIBLE, without paying a heavy tax for it. How this accords with His Excellency's late 'Proclamation for the encouragement of *Piety, Virtue, Education, and Manners*,' let the framers of the act determine. Were it not for the tax upon advertising *good books*, the Printer hereof would inform the Public, that he has just published 'Extracts from Dr. Priestley's Catechism' which he sells at five coppers single, and two shillings the dozen."

In leaving, Mr. Hall said he should always retain the most grateful recollection of favors received in this place, and should "always endeavor to promote the interests and reputation of the town of Salem."

The removal to Boston was executed with characteristic promptness, so that not a single issue of the paper was omitted, the next number, under the new name of "The Massachusetts Gazette," appearing as a continuation on the regular day, Nov. 28. Mr. Hall made arrangements to supply his Salem subscribers as usual, by a carrier. He subsequently sold the Gazette to other parties. He afterwards printed a paper for a short time in the French language, entitled "Courier de Boston,"—the first paper in that language in New England. In 1789 he opened a book store in Cornhill, which he sold in 1805 to Lincoln and Edmands, of which firm Gould and Lincoln are the present successors.

Mr. Hall, as we have stated, was born in Medford, Nov. 2, 1740, of Jonathan Hall and Anna Fowle. He died Oct. 30, 1807, aged 67 years. He was an industrious, accurate, and enterprising printer, a judicious editor, and excellent man. His life was one of active usefulness and of remarkable success. Besides his newspaper publications, he was the printer and publisher of many works, of various degrees of importance, some of them of considerable value. The list of his publications during his residence in Salem, and subsequently in Boston, would reflect great credit upon him as a man of business enterprise. In his papers he advocated liberal opinions with firmness and discretion, and always commanded the confidence and respect of the best men in the community. "The country," says Mr. Buckingham, "had no firmer friend, in the gloomiest period of its history, as well as in the days of its young and increasing prosperity, than Samuel Hall."

6. **THE SALEM CHRONICLE AND ESSEX ADVERTISER.** The short interim succeeding Mr. Hall's second series, was followed, March 30, 1786, by the commencement of a weekly paper, with the foregoing title, by George Roulstone. It continued less than a year, and possessed no special interest. It was printed on Paved st., on a crown sheet, at 9 shillings.

7. **THE SALEM GAZETTE.** The present Salem Gazette was commenced Oct. 14, 1786, when John Dabney and Thomas C. Cushing issued the first number of "The Salem Mercury," which in 1790, Jan. 5, assumed the name of "The Salem Gazette," and has so continued ever since. Mr. Cushing was a native of Hingham. He had served his apprenticeship with Mr. Hall, and had afterwards, in 1785, been connected with John W. Allen, in the publication of the American Recorder and Charlestown Advertiser, in Charlestown. He was 22 years of age when he came to Salem, and from his intercourse with so excellent a master as Mr. Hall, had doubtless been strengthened in the liberal principles and correct habits which he brought to his new undertaking.

The Mercury was printed weekly, on Tuesday, on a demy sheet, four columns to a page, and chiefly on long primer type. The price was 9 shillings a year. The contents of the paper gave evidence of care in the selection, and the original communications were from competent writers. Party lines had not been drawn at that early period, and the political character of the paper was simply that of an ardent advocate of the new federal constitution, the adoption of which, in our own state, and in other states, successively, was recorded in terms of exultation.

Mr. Dabney withdrew from the paper at the close of the third volume, Oct. 6, 1789, and opened a book-store, leaving Mr. Cushing sole proprietor of the business. He continued thus until Oct. 14, 1794, a period of five years, and then transferred the publication to Wm. Carlton, his partner in the Bible and Heart Book-store.* In making the change Mr.

* The Bible and Heart book-store was in the lower story of the building occupied by the printing office, the same which is now kept by D. B. Brooks and Brother. There were formerly wooden figures of a bible and a heart suspended over the door, which during the last war were torn down in the night, by some mischievous persons, and thrown into the harbor. It was upon the occasion of a list of privateers, in our harbor, being published in the Gazette by the foreman of the office.

Cushing acknowledged, "with sensibility, the benefits he had received," during the time that he had been sole editor, and remarked, that "notwithstanding the disadvantages, under which it had been published, he relinquished it with an increase, double to what it possessed when he received it." He observed also that "many thought it expedient that it should be made a semi-weekly paper."

Mr. Carlton announced his intention to continue the Gazette, as it had been, "impartial, independent, and uninfluenced, but by the public good—neither devoting it to the cause of unfeeling Aristocracy, or employing it in kindling the vindictive rage of Democracy, or lighting the destructive torch of Anarchy." Mr. Carlton conducted the Gazette nearly three years, receiving the assistance of Rev. Dr. Bentley, who lived in the same family with him, opposite Union street, and was ever his efficient friend. In 1796, June 3, he undertook the experiment of issuing the paper twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday, introducing the change with the graceful remark, that "to a town whose population exceeds 8000 souls, we could not pay so poor a compliment as to continue a weekly Gazette."

The traces of Dr. Bentley's pen were abundant in the columns at this time. His series of "summaries," afterwards so famous in the Register, had been commenced here, for the purpose of transmitting to his friend Prof. Ebeling, of Hamburg, in a convenient form, materials for a history and geography of the U. S. which he was then preparing. These summaries, together with Mr. Carlton's exchange papers, were regularly sent to the Professor, who in return forwarded German books to Dr. Bentley, and thus a fair exchange was established, which never involved the least money transaction. The newspapers and other materials thus provided by Dr. Bentley, were afterwards, in 1818, purchased, in connection with Prof. Ebeling's library, by Israel Thorndike, of Boston, and presented to Harvard College.

In 1797, July 24, the business connection between Cushing and Carlton ceased, the Gazette was resumed by the former, and Carlton and Dr. Bentley withdrew. It is presumed that political differences, arising out of the increase of party feeling, led to the dissolution of the partnership, though no reason was publicly given. The Gazette thenceforth ceased to be neutral, and espoused in a bold and decided manner, the interests and the fortunes of the Federal party. Mr. Cushing continued as publisher a quarter of a century, ably sustaining the cause of his party during the fiery trials of that period.

The excited and virulent political feeling at various times between 1802 and 1815, embracing the events connected with the last war with Great Britain, was fully exhibited in the columns of the Gazette. Although Mr. Cushing was himself of a mild and peaceable disposition, he allowed a pretty free use of his columns by writers who did not emulate his own virtues. The republican party were assailed in violent and often extremely personal language. Sarcasm, ridicule, and severe denunciation were freely employed. Nor was the Register at all backward in returning the assault in a similar tone and spirit. This mode of warfare led on several occasions to serious personal difficulties.

In the fall of 1802 a violent contest arose between the Federal and Republican parties, concerning the election of a member of Congress from this district. The result was favorable to the republicans. When it was over, in November, the editors of the Register and Gazette were called upon to answer for the tone of their papers, the former by a libel suit, and the latter by threats of personal violence. Mr. Cushing was visited at his house by Cpts. Richard and Benj. Crowninshield and Mr. Joseph Story, and taken into a private room, where he was charged with malicious publications, of a purely personal and offensive character, against the complainants and their friends, designed to injure them in the estimation of the community. After detailing their grievances at some length, Capt. Benj. Crowninshield threatened to shoot Mr. Cushing if he continued to publish such things as they had complained of. Mr. Cushing replied that it had been his endeavor to keep his paper free from undue personalities, though he considered public characters and public conduct as proper subjects of animadversion; and as for the future he should give no pledges, but should be governed by his regard for decency, and endeavor to give no just cause of offence. The conversation became so loud and boisterous that it alarmed the females of Mr. Cushing's family, who called a number of persons into an adjoining apartment, as listeners; and thus the whole affair became a matter of public notoriety. The excitement which ensued was so great that Mr. Cushing was obliged to publish a full account of the interview.

Party politics continued to rage for several years afterwards with a degree of violence which we hope may never again be experienced.

One of the most amusing circumstances connected with this period was that of the Pictorial Gerrymander. The democra-

the legislature of 1811-12 had so carved and cut up the towns of Essex County as to favor the election of a democratic member of congress from Essex South. The district thus formed was very strange in its outlines, running from Salem all around the line of back towns, Lynn, Andover, Haverhill, &c., and ending at Salisbury. This curious arrangement struck the eye of Gilbert Stuart, the celebrated Painter, as presenting the outlines of a natural monster, and he accordingly took his pencil, and by affixing claws to the lower extremities at Salem and Marblehead, wings to the back at Andover, and a 'horrid beak' at Salisbury, produced the figure of a creature which he said would do for a Salamander. But Major Ben. Russell suggested that it might more properly be called a "Gerrymander," in allusion to the democratic Governor of the state. It ever after received this title. An engraving of the monster was inserted in the Gazette and other papers, and printed upon handbills, as an electioneering document. In 1813, when the democrats were defeated, the federalists were in high glee over the "Gerrymander" which had been so useful to them, and on the morning after the election in April, a figure of the skeleton of the deceased monster appeared in the Gazette, with the appropriate epitaph, "Hatched 1812—killed 1813." This device was executed by Mr. Appleton, the jocosely partner of Mr. Cushing in his bookstore, who cast a block of type-metal and engraved the figure during the night previous to its publication. There was subsequently published a picture of the non-descript in its coffin, and a fac-simile of the grave stone, together with an amusing programme of mock ceremonials at its funeral.

Mr. Cushing relinquished the publication of the Gazette Dec. 31, 1822, on account of infirm health, and in retiring from a post he had so long occupied, bade adieu to his friends in a graceful note. He died Sept. 28, 1824, aged 60. As an editor and publisher, as well as a member of the firm of Cushing and Appleton, he had secured a host of friends, who remembered him as "the amiable and gifted Cushing." His qualities of mind and heart were such as commanded the respect and esteem of all who knew him. He was steadfast and conscientious in his political opinions, a person of thorough integrity in his business affairs, gentle and pleasing in his manners. He is described as having had strong powers of mind, warmth of fancy, various and extensive knowledge, and a familiar acquaintance with the best of English literature, which gave attraction and fascination to his conversation.

Among the writers for the Gazette during Mr. Cushing's connection with it, was the late Benj. Merrill, who was a constant and voluminous contributor to its columns, and whose writings contributed largely to its success and influence upon the public mind.

The next publishers of the paper were Caleb Cushing, a son of Thos. C.,* and Ferdinand Andrews, who commenced at the begining of 1823. Mr. Cushing withdrew at the end of six months, and Mr. Andrews continued sole publisher until April 1, 1825, when he sold half of the establishment to Caleb Foote. Mr. Foote had served his apprenticeship with Mr. T. C. Cushing, who had himself been an apprentice of Mr. Hall, and thus was established a personal connection between the original Essex Gazette and the Salem Gazette of to-day. In 1826, Oct. 1, the other half of the Gazette was purchased by Wm. Brown, of Mr. Andrews, who removed to Lancaster and established a paper in that town. He afterwards returned to Salem, to publish the Landmark, and is now a proprietor of the Boston Daily Evening Traveller.

In 1833, Jan. 1, Mr. Foote became sole proprietor of the Gazette and has so continued ever since. He was assisted for some time by John B. Chisholm, and subsequently, for several years, by Wm. Brown. In 1854, Jan. 1, N. A. Horton became assistant publisher and editor and so remains at the present time.

From Jan. 1, 1847, until Oct. 3, 1851, the Gazette was issued tri-weekly, on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. At the latter date the Saturday edition was discontinued in favor of an enlarged semi-weekly. Since the modern division of parties, the Gazette has been a zealous and efficient advocate of the views of the whig party. During the campaign of 1855 it occupied a neutral position.

The printing office previous to 1792 was somewhere near its present location, and for two years subsequent to that time in Stearns's Building. It was afterwards removed to the present neighborhood; then to No. 8 Paved street.† From 1825 to 1827, it occupied the rooms now improved by the Register of-

* Mr. Cushing brought up two other sons as printers, one of whom, John D., is now publisher of the Berkshire Courier, an excellent paper, printed in Great Barrington.

† In the chamber of the building occupied by John Perley's shoe store.

fice. It was removed thence to Columbian Hall, Stearns's Building; and finally, Jan. 11, 1831, to its present quarters.

8: THE SALEM REGISTER. This paper was commenced during the first year of the present century, May 12, 1800, when the first number was issued with the title of "The Impartial Register." It was published on Monday and Thursday, by William Carlton, who had withdrawn from the Gazette, and dissolved his partnership in the book business with Thos. C. Cushing, several years before, as we have already stated. The Register started in opposition to the Federal party, and during the violent political struggles which ensued, was an able supporter of the Republican cause. It selected for its motto the following lines:

"All parties here may plead an honest, favorite cause,
Whoever reasons best on Nature's, Wisdom's Laws,
Proclaims eternal Truth—gains Heaven's and Men's applause."

Dr. Bentley aided Mr. Carlton in his new publication, as he had previously done in the Gazette, and his famous Summaries and variety of miscellaneous and local articles, soon gave the paper a decided character. In a few months, Aug. 7, the title was enlarged to "The Salem Impartial Register." This was continued until Jan. 4, 1802, when the word "Impartial" was dropped, leaving "The Salem Register." At the same time the original motto gave place to the well known verse which is still printed in the paper, and which was written impromptu by the late Judge Story, who is said to have scribbled it in pencil on the side of a printer's case:

"Here shall the Press the People's Rights maintain,
Unawed by Influence, and unbribed by Gain;
Here Patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,
Pledged to Religion, Liberty, and Law."

During the autumn of this year (1802) the editor, Mr. Carlton, was convicted of a libel on Timothy Pickering, and suffered imprisonment therefor. This occurred just after the election of a member of Congress for this district, when Jacob Crowninshield, the democratic candidate, was chosen over Mr. Pickering, who was the federal candidate. The Register had asserted that "Robert Liston, the British Ambassador, distributed five hundred thousand dollars amongst the partizans of the English nation in America," and intimated that Mr. Pickering might have partaken of "these secret largesses," "some

little token, some small gratuity, for all his zealous efforts against liberty and her sons, for all his attachment to the interests of England," at the same time indulging in contemptuous flings towards the distinguished ex-Secretary of State. To answer for this article Mr. Carlton was indicted by the grand jury, and tried before the Supreme Court, at Ipswich, in April, 1803. He was convicted, and sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, and the costs of prosecution; to be imprisoned in the county jail two months; and to give bonds with two sureties in \$400 each, to keep the peace for two years. This unfortunate affair is simply illustrative of the acerbity of party feeling at that time.

In a little more than two years after this imprisonment, Mr. Carlton died, July 24, 1805, aged 34. He had suffered from fever during his imprisonment, as stated by Dr. Bentley, and continued feeble until the day before his decease, when he was suddenly seized by violent fever and derangement, which terminated his life in twenty-four hours. Mr. Carlton was a native of Salem, and descended from two of the ancient families of the country. His constant friend said of him:—"He always possessed great cheerfulness of temper and great benevolence of mind. He was distinguished by his perseverance, integrity, and uprightness. To his generous zeal the public were indebted for the early information which the Register gave of the most interesting occurrences. To a tender mother he was faithful, and to his family affectionate. The friends of his youth enjoyed the warmth of his gratitude. His professions and friendships were sincere. He was an able editor and an honest man."

Previous to the death of Mr. Carlton, the printing office was removed (Jan. 3, 1803,) from its original location in the house on Essex st., next below the Franklin building, to a room over the post office, where Bowker's building now stands. At the same time a new head-piece was mounted, a figure of liberty, with the motto, "where liberty is there is my country."

After the death of Mr. Carlton, the Register was published for his widow, Elizabeth, until the 26th of August ensuing, when she died also. It was then continued "for the proprietors,"—Dr. Bentley and Warwick Palfray jr., contributing to its columns for nearly two years. In August, 1806, an advertisement appeared, stating that "The Salem Register having been supported in its editorial department by the voluntary assistance of its friends since the decease of the late editor, Mr.

Carlton, the proprietors are desirous of obtaining an editor to conduct the same in future." No new arrangement was commenced however until July 23, 1807, when a "new series," entitled "The Essex Register," was commenced by Haven Pool and Warwick Palfray jr., assisted by S. Cleveland Blyden. At this time the famous motto-verse was dropped, and the following sentence adopted as a substitute:—"Let the greatest good of the greatest number be the pole-star of your public and private deliberations." [Ramsay]. Mr. Blyden's name remained in the paper only about six months, when, Jan. 6, 1808, it was withdrawn. The publication days were then changed to Wednesday and Saturday, "for various reasons, some of a public and some of a private nature." The favorite motto was again resumed.

On June 28, 1811, Mr. Pool, the eldest proprietor, although only 29, suddenly died, after a short illness, leaving Mr. Palfray the sole editor and publisher for the next twenty-three years. Mr. Pool was described in an obituary notice as "an affectionate husband, kind parent, and dutiful son. He was of a cheerful disposition, constant and ardent in his friendships, and excessively fond in his domestic attachments." He is remembered as a genial and gay companion.

At the beginning of the year 1814 Mr. Palfray removed the printing office to the building on Essex street, opposite Union street, now a carpenter's shop; and again in 1820 it was removed to the second building above, now a painter's shop, and next to the original location. So that it occupied successively three of the buildings next below Franklin Place. In 1828, April 28, it was transferred to Stearns's Building, and in 1832, Oct. 5, it was finally removed to Central Building, where it now remains.

In 1823, Feb. 1, the old publication days, Monday and Thursday, were resumed. In 1835, Jan. 1, John Chapman, who had entered the office as an apprentice in 1807, was admitted as partner in the business.

The death of Mr. Palfray, who had been identified with the Register as Mr. Cushing had been with the Gazette, occurred August 23, 1838, at the age of 51. He was a native of Salem, a descendant of Peter Palfray, one of the first settlers of this place—having arrived here several years before Gov. Endicott. Mr. Palfray served his time as a printer with Mr. Carlton, whose office he entered in 1801. He assumed a share in the charge of the Register while yet a minor, and his tact and good

judgment, thenceforth exerted, largely increased the circulation of the paper, and gave it popularity and influence. He was the sole conductor during the times of the embargo and the war with England, when political feeling ran very high, and was much embittered by personal hostilities. "Yet, notwithstanding all the excitements of those periods," said his eulogist, the late Jos. E. Sprague, "Mr. Palfrey gave as little just cause of offence as any man living could. Possessed of most generous and honorable feelings, he never willingly gave just cause of offence to a political opponent. Personal allusions were always painful to him—and at those periods of deadly feud, when he was placed at the editorial desk, it was his greatest pleasure to take from the papers handed him for publication the poisoned arrows; and when he could not, consistently with political duty, wholly remove personal allusions, to soften them to the utmost limit." * * * "With but slight advantages of education there were but few who were more useful to society. His heart was the abode of pure thoughts—his life the exemplar of good principles. The tongue of calumny, in the times of bitterest political animosities, never breathed a syllable against the spotless purity of his life and character."

Though Mr. Palfrey never sought office, he held several public trusts. He was a member of the city government at the time of his death, and vice president of the Mechanic Association. He had served with usefulness in both branches of the legislature.

After the death of Mr. Palfrey, the paper was continued by the surviving partner, Mr. Chapman,—the family of the former retaining an interest in the publication. On Jan. 1st, 1839, Charles W. Palfrey, a son of the former proprietor, and a graduate of Harvard University, assumed the place vacated by his father. In 1841, Jan. 1, the earlier name of "The Salem Register" was again adopted.

The Register during the more than half century of its existence has received the contributions of able pens. Dr. Bentley, and the late Sheriff Sprague, were voluminous and influential writers in its columns for a great many years. Judge Story, during his residence in Salem, was a frequent contributor. So was Andrew Dunlap for many years previous to 1825. The Summaries of Dr. Bentley have become famous. These concise and curious medleys were furnished regularly for a quarter of a century. They often extended to a column and a half of close matter, and sometimes to several columns. They were

continued until the very close of his life, the last Summary appearing in the Register published on the very day of his death, the last day of the year 1819. These contributions from Dr. Bentley's industrious pen were thus constantly furnished without ever a dollar being received by him as compensation. He labored without the expectation or desire of reward.

The Register, as well as the Gazette, after the dissolution of the old parties, joined the ranks of the modern whig party, and gave it cordial and valuable aid. During the last canvass for Governor, it favored the election of Rockwell, the republican candidate.

9. **THE WEEKLY VISITANT.** In 1806, during the rage of party politics, a periodical was commenced, by Haven Pool, of a purely literary character, though not of great pretensions. It was an octavo, entitled "The Weekly Visitant," published on Saturday evening "directly west of the Tower of Dr. Prince's Church." Price \$2 per year. It seems to have been designed to afford its patrons more agreeable reading than was furnished in the political papers, an idea which was expressed in the couplet adopted as a motto:

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace,
Unwarped by party rage, to live like brothers."

10. **THE FRIEND.** The Visitant had a successor, the next year, in "The Friend," started by Mr. Pool, in connection with Stephen C. Blyth, as editor, Jan. 3, 1807. It was published weekly, on Saturday evening, of the common newspaper form, at \$2 per year. It was announced as a "new and *neutral* paper," and was therefore spoken of as "a scheme *novel* in its design;" nevertheless it was hoped that by avoiding insipidity it might be made interesting. Like its predecessor, this paper indicated a desire for peace in the community by selecting a peaceful motto, from Ecclesiasticus: "Sweet language will multiply friends; and a fair speaking tongue will increase kind greetings." The Friend lasted about six months, until July 18, and was then merged in the Register, with which the publisher and editor also formed a connection. Mr. Blyth had changed his name to Blyden, during the year, by consent of the General Court. He was a native of Salem, and taught school here. He afterwards removed to Canada, and is believed to have died there.

11, 12, 13. **HUMOROUS PUBLICATIONS.** In 1807 and

1808, Mr. John S. Appleton, of the firm of Cushing and Appleton, who was known as a ready wit, got out two or three small humorous publications, which had a temporary run as periodicals. One of these was "*The Fool*. By Thomas Brainless, Esq., L. L. D., Jester to his Majesty the Public. A new and useless paper, of no particular form or size, issued at irregular intervals; and the price to be left at the generosity of the public." This was issued in 1807. Then there was "the Barber's Shop, kept by Sir David Razor," published by Cushing and Appleton, in 1808, and printed by Joshua Cushing, a brother of Thomas C. Cushing. Another of these ephemeral sheets, the Punches of those days, was "Salmagundi," from the same source. In all of these the republican party was the object of ridicule and satire.

14. THE GOSPEL VISITANT. This was the title of a quarterly octavo magazine, commenced in Salem, in 1811, to espouse the doctrines of Universalism. It is interesting from the circumstance that it was the first regular periodical issued by that denomination in this country. There had been previously an occasional publication in Boston, entitled "The Berean,"—containing the proceedings of an association,—eight numbers of which were printed, at irregular intervals, without regard to time; but the Visitant was the first regular periodical. It was started at the suggestion of a Conference of Universalist Ministers, assembled at Gloucester in January of that year. The conductors were Thomas Jones of Gloucester, Hosea Ballou of Portsmouth, Abner Kneeland of Charlestown, and Edward Turner of Salem, all prominent clergymen of that communion, settled over societies in the places named. The contents of the magazine were chiefly sermons, essays, and briefer articles upon religious and doctrinal points. The price was 25 cents a number. The numbers for June and September were printed at the Register office; that for December, by Ward and Coburn, on North street; and that for March, 1812, was published in Charlestown. The 2nd volume did not appear until 1817, when it was printed by Warwick Palfray, jr. It was now edited by Hosea Ballou and Edward Turner. At the commencement of vol. 3, April, 1818, the publication was removed to Haverhill, and assumed by P. N. Green.

15. THE SALEM OBSERVER. The first number of "The Observer" was published January 2, 1823, by William and Stephen B. Ives—the former an apprentice of Mr. Cushing, of the Gazette. It was of the royal size, and issued weekly on

Monday evening, from the Washington Hall building, No. 2, Court street. Price \$2. The paper was designed to be a literary and miscellaneous sheet, eschewing party politics,—a character which it has maintained until the present time. It was edited by Benj. Lynde Oliver, Esq., during the first year. After the fifth number, the time of publication was changed to Saturday evening, which arrangement continued for twenty-two numbers, and then Saturday morning became the time of publication, and so continues now. At the commencement of vol. 2, 1824, the title was changed to "Salem Observer," and at the same time Joseph G. Waters, Esq. became editor, as successor to Mr. Oliver. At the conclusion of the year, Mr. Waters withdrew from the responsibility of the paper, but continued to be a contributor for several years afterwards. In 1825, Jan. 15, the name was enlarged to "Salem Literary and Commercial Observer," and this was borne until January 3, 1829, when the title "Salem Observer" was resumed.

The printing office was removed, Nov. 25, 1826, from its original location, to "Messrs. P. & A. Chase's new brick building in Washington street." There it remained until 1832, Feb. 4, when it was again removed to its present quarters in Stearns's building. In 1837, Jan. 7, Mr. George W. Pease, who had served his apprenticeship in the office, was admitted to the partnership, and in 1839, Jan. 5, Mr. Stephen B. Ives withdrew, leaving the firm of Ives and Pease.

The Observer has from the beginning "pursued the even tenor of its way," as a well-established family newspaper, experiencing fewer changes of fortune than some papers we have mentioned, and therefore affording fewer incidents "to make a note of." At the termination of Mr. Waters's editorship, Solomon S. Whipple became a regular contributor to its columns, and afterwards Wilson Flagg, Rev. E. M. Stone, Edwin Jocelyn, Stephen B. Ives, jr., and the writer of the present notice.

16. SALEM COURIER. In 1828, September 17, Charles Amburger Andrew began a weekly paper, the "Salem Courier," which was published on Wednesday, at \$3, from an office in the East India Marine Hall building. It proclaimed itself "strictly independent," a supporter of Adams's administration, an opponent of the tariff, etc. It became however a theological rather than a political paper, and was a zealous antagonist of the doctrines of Calvinism. Its editor was a pleasant and humorous writer, and had able correspondents. But the paper was continued for only one year. Mr. Andrews was a member

of the bar, and served as a representative of the city in the legislature. He died June 17, 1843.

17. **THE HIVE.** This was a small weekly publication for children, commenced on Saturday, Sept. 21, 1828, by W. and S. B. Ives. After the fifth number it was issued on Wednesday. It continued for two years. The first volume was 16mo., and the second an 8vo. It was one of the earliest of papers intended exclusively for children, which are now so numerous and excellent.

18. **LADIES' MISCELLANY.** A small weekly folio, with this title, was commenced Jan. 6, 1829,—a specimen number having been issued on the 7th of November preceding. It was "printed at the Register office," by John Chapman, on Tuesday, at \$1 per year. It was designed "to furnish a supply of amusing, instructive, and unexceptionable reading to the Ladies' of Salem and vicinity." At the close of the volume the issue was suspended, for want of support, but April 7, 1830, a second volume was commenced, on Wednesday, in consideration of "a considerable accession to the list of subscribers." At the close of this volume the publication ceased.

19. **ESSEX COUNTY MERCURY.** The publication of a diminutive weekly paper by the proprietors of the Gazette, was commenced in 1831, June 8, under the name of "Salem Mercury." It has since been much enlarged, and is now entitled "Essex County Mercury, Danvers, Beverly, and Marblehead Courier." It is made up mainly from the columns of the Gazette.—Price \$1.50.

20. **SALEM ADVERTISER.** The first organ of the modern democratic party in Salem, was "The Commercial Advertiser," commenced April 4, 1832, by Edward Palfray and James R. Cook. It was started as a semi-weekly, on Wednesday and Saturday. The office was in Central building, over the Savings Bank. It was an ardent advocate of the election of Gen. Jackson to the Presidency, and throughout its existence of seventeen years continued to uphold the views of the democratic party. After the first year the additional title of "Essex County Journal" was adopted; and it was published as a weekly, on Wednesday, until July 8, 1837, when Palfray and Cook sold out to Charles W. Woodbury, who issued it as a semi-weekly again, under the name of "The Salem Advertiser." Thus it was continued, until February 1849, when it was a weekly once more until its final close, August 1, 1849. From October 16, 1841, until September 11, 1844, the title

was "Salem Advertiser and Argus;" after which the word Argus was omitted.

So many persons were connected with the Advertiser, at various times, as editors and publishers, that we must mention them briefly. During the proprietorship of Mr. Woodbury, Mr. Wm. B. Pike served as editor for about six weeks from Oct. 17, 1838. Mr. Henry Blaney served two terms as proprietor, first, from March 11, 1840, until Oct. 16, 1841; and again from June 21, 1843, until Sept. 11, 1844. Benj. Kingsbury, jr. Esq., now of Portland, was editor during the political campaign of 1840. Edward Palfrey took a second turn of two years, between Mr. Blaney's two periods. H. C. Hobart, Esq., and F. C. Crowninshield, were the editors during the campaign of 1844. Mr. Hobart afterwards went to Wisconsin, and became Speaker of the Assembly. Mr. Crowninshield enlisted for the Mexican war, and was lieutenant of a company. Messrs. Varney, Parsons & Co. were the next publishers, from 1844, Nov. 20, to 1845, Dec. 31, and were succeeded by Messrs. Perley and Parsons, Mr. Varney having gone to the war as a corporal. The final publisher was Mr. Eben N. Walton, who began Feb. 15, 1847, and continued to the end. Mr. Woodbury, an earlier editor, and once Postmaster here, was the third one who went to the war. He was drowned on his way back. Before he came to Salem he published the Gloucester Democrat. Edward Palfrey, the projector of the paper, and the person who was longest editor of it, died at the Worcester Hospital, in 1846, April 14, aged 41. He was a spirited and forcible writer, a zealous democrat and a kind hearted man.

21. SATURDAY EVENING BULLETIN. This was the title of a small neutral paper, published weekly, by Palfrey & Cook, at the Advertiser office. Price \$1. It continued for one year, from May 18, 1833, when it was relinquished in favor of a political journal. It was edited by Nicholas Devereux, Esq.

22. THE CONSTITUTIONALIST. This was the political journal which followed the Bulletin. Its publishers were the same. It was a small weekly. It sustained Marcus Morton for Governor, and Joseph S. Cabot for congress. The duration of this paper was from June 28, 1834 until the close of the year—a little more than six months.

23. THE LANDMARK. In 1834, Aug. 20, a semi-weekly paper, entitled "The Landmark," of goodly size and elegant typography, sent out its first number from a new printing

office, corner of Essex and Liberty streets. It was printed on Wednesday and Saturday, by Ferdinand Andrews, formerly of the Gazette, and was edited by Rev. Dudley Phelps. It was a religious sheet, of the orthodox persuasion, and favorable to the temperance and anti-slavery movements. It was the occasion, by reason of an article upon the former subject in its columns, of a great excitement in this community, which will be long remembered. Mr. Phelps withdrew from the paper before the close of the first volume, and Mr. Andrews was the editor until the suspension of the publication, Nov. 2, 1836, in a little more than two years from the outset.

24. **THE LIGHTHOUSE.** During the time of the Landmark, a small weekly paper, entitled "The Lighthouse," was printed at the Gazette office, and "edited by an Association of Gentlemen," the design of which was "to represent the sentiments and espouse the interests of Liberal Christianity." It was recognized as an antagonist of the Landmark, and was continued from June 11 until Oct. 31, of the year 1835. The first nine numbers were issued on Monday; the remainder on Saturday.

25. **ESSEX COUNTY DEMOCRAT.** This was the title of a paper removed hither from Gloucester in the fall of 1838, to sustain Joseph S. Cabot, and the interests of the Cabot section of the democratic party, in distinction from those of the Rantoul section. It was edited and published by Joseph Dunham Friend. The first number was issued Nov. 2, of that year. After continuing for a time as a semi-weekly, on Tuesday and Friday, it became a weekly. It expired in about three months.

26. **THE HARRISONIAN.** During the exciting political contest of 1840, a small campaign paper, entitled "The Harrisonian," containing speeches and documents, was published by the editor of the Gazette. It was commenced on Saturday, Feb. 22, and continued weekly until the election, lending its aid to the whig nominees.

27. **THE WHIG.** This also was a campaign paper, a few numbers of which were published in 1840 at the Register office to promote the election of Gen. Harrison to the presidency.—Such campaign sheets as the Whig and Harrisonian were numerous during the memorable contest of that year, and exerted a large influence in favor of the election of Harrison and Tyler. They were published at very low rates, and freely purchased by political clubs for gratuitous distribution.

28. **GENIUS OF CHRISTIANITY.** This was the title of a

small semi-monthly sheet, printed at the Observer office, for the Rev. A. G. Comings, for two years from Jan. 1, 1841.—It was a religious paper, as its title indicates. Mr. Comings was a preacher of the Campbellite faith, and had a society in a room on Washington street opposite the Court House.

29. **THE CHRISTIAN TEACHER.** This was substantially the same publication as the "Genius of Christianity," containing, as it did, the same matter as that sheet, thrown into a quarto form, once a month, for circulation through the mail. It was issued during the year 1842. The printers and editor were of course the same.

30. **"THE LOCOMOTIVE, an Independent Journal."** In April, 1842, William H. Perley commenced a weekly paper in Lynn, entitled "The Locomotive," which was removed to Central building, Salem, Dec. 17, 1842, and published here on Saturday, until July 8, 1843—about six months. A few numbers in February were published semi-weekly, on a diminutive sheet. From May 13, it was published by Perley and Whittier. It was humorous and miscellaneous in its character.

31. **ESSEX COUNTY WASHINGTONIAN.** This paper was printed in Lynn, by Christopher Robinson, and was published in Lynn and Salem, on Thursday, during a portion of the year 1842. Its connection with Salem was brief and merely nominal. It was one of the earliest of the numerous temperance periodicals which sprang up at the time of the Washingtonian, or moral suasion, movement. The editor at one time was the Rev. David H. Barlow, of Lynn.

32. **SALEM WASHINGTONIAN.** This paper, like the preceding one, had only a nominal connection with our city. It was printed in Boston, by J. B. Hall, published by Theodore Abbott, and edited by Charles W. Denison. Its Salem office was in Washington Hall, (then permanently occupied by a temperance society) whence it was circulated on Saturday, for a short time, in 1843, commencing July 8. It soon afterwards assumed the title "New England Washingtonian," and was published in Boston under that name for several years.

33. **INDEPENDENT DEMOCRAT.** A division existed in the democratic party in 1843, which led to the establishment of a weekly paper here to sustain David Pingree as a candidate for Congress against Robert Rantoul, jr. It was entitled "Independent Democrat;" was commenced March 6, and continued for a few weeks only. Wm. H. Perley was the printer.

34. **THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.** In 1843, May 7, Syl-

vanus Brown, who was then in Salem Jail for disturbing a religious meeting, published at the Locomotive office, three numbers of a small sheet with the foregoing designation, beginning May 7, 1843.

35. **VOICE AROUND THE JAIL.** In 1843, Henry Clapp jr. issued a small transient publication with the foregoing title, from W. H. Perley's printing office. Mr. Clapp was editor of the Lynn Pioneer, and was then an occupant of Salem Jail under a sentence for libel. His "Voice" in this printed form was in favor of radical reform.

36. **THE EVANGELIST.** For the second time the publication of a Universalist periodical was begun in Salem, Aug. 12, 1843. It was a small weekly, with the foregoing title, issued on Saturday, from Samuel T. Damon's office, in Manning's Building. The editors were L. S. Everett, J. M. Austin, and S. C. Bulkeley, the first settled over the Universalist society in Salem, and the others Pastors in Danvers. The Evangelist was sustained only six months.

37. **ESSEX COUNTY REFORMER.** This was the third temperance paper published here as an aid to the Washingtonian, or moral suasion, movement. It was issued weekly, on Saturday, upon a small sheet, from the office of S. T. Damon. T. G. Chipman was the editor. It lasted three months from Sept. 2, 1843.

38. **THE TEMPERANCE OFFERING.** The Rev. N. Hervey, who preached to a Free Church in Washington Hall, commenced, Feb. 1845, a monthly 12mo. periodical, with the title named above. During that year it was printed at the Gazette office. The second and last vol., for 1846, was printed in Boston, of octavo size, and with the additional title of "Youth's Cascade." The volumes have since been issued in book form.

39. **SALEM ORACLE.** In 1848, two numbers of a small advertising sheet, called the "The Oracle," were published for the months of January and February, by Henry Blaney. Four more numbers, enlarged, for the four months following, were printed at the Gazette office, for Jos. L. Wallis, editor.

40. **ESSEX COUNTY TIMES.** This paper was a democratic weekly, published in the fall of 1848, by E. K. Averill. It began in Marblehead, where ten numbers were issued, and ended its brief period here with three numbers more. It was issued irregularly. The principal writer for its columns was E. K. Averill, jr., who was better known as a writer of "yellow covered literature" for Gleason's Publishing House in Boston.

41. **THE FREE WORLD.** This was a spirited campaign paper, published during the presidential contest in 1848. It commenced Aug. 15, and continued on Friday until Nov. 10. The editor was Geo. F. Chever, Esq. It was printed at the Observer Office.

42. **SALEM DAILY CHRONICLE.** The first attempt to establish a daily paper in Salem, was made by Henry Blaney, who, in 1848, March 1, began the "Salem Daily Chronicle." It was printed in Bowker's building, and published every afternoon at one cent per copy. It took no part in politics.—But the patronage was not sufficient to sustain it, and the publication ceased with the 70th number, issued on the 22d of May of the same year.

43. **THE ASTEROID.** In August, 1848, Wm. H. Hutchinson, a job printer, commenced a small monthly sheet for the entertainment of the young people in our public schools, etc., entitled as above. It was continued here for several months, and was then removed to Boston.

44. **ESSEX COUNTY FREEMAN.** The Free Soil movement in 1848-49 led to the establishment of several new papers in different parts of the Commonwealth. One of these was The Essex County Freeman, the first number of which was issued by Gilbert L. Streeter and William Porter, Aug. 1, 1849. It was designed to aid the political anti-slavery movement, and in pursuance of this purpose sustained the nominations of the Free Soil party, and subsequently those of the coalition of the free soil and democratic parties. It was published semi-weekly, on Wednesday and Saturday, at \$3 per year, from an office in Hale's building. In 1850, Nov. 25, Mr. Streeter withdrew his interest in the paper, but remained as editor. The publication was continued by Mr. Porter until 1852, Feb. 11, when he withdrew, and the publication was assumed by "Benjamin W. Lander for the Proprietors." At the same time Geo. F. Chever, Esq., associated himself with the former editor as joint conductors of the paper. In the beginning of the next year the establishment was purchased by Rev. J. E. Pomfret, the former editors continuing their services in that department for several months. Mr. Pomfret was the publisher of the paper for one year, after which Edwin Lawrence, of the Lynn Bay State, became the proprietor. He issued it weekly until June 14, 1854, when the publication ceased, after a term of five years.

45. **BEVERLY CITIZEN.** Although the Beverly Citizen

seems not to be entitled to a place among Salem papers, we place it in the list, because it was printed here, and for a time partly owned here. It was commenced in 1851, and issued weekly, on Saturday, by Andrew F. Wales, a periodical dealer in Beverly. At first printed in Boston, it was afterwards, beginning June 28, 1851, printed at the Salem Observer office. In March, 1853, J. E. Pomfret took an interest in it, and it was printed at the Freeman office, until its stoppage in 1854. The editor at one time was Rev. Mr. Washburn, of Beverly, deceased, and subsequently Mr. Wilson Flagg, of the same place.

46. **THE NATIONAL DEMOCRAT.** On Saturday, May 24, 1851, Mr. James Coffin issued a specimen number of "The National Democrat," but the patronage offered did not warrant a continuance of the paper. It was designed to oppose the coalition of the free soil and democratic parties.

47. **THE UNION DEMOCRAT.** The next movement for an anti-coalition democratic paper was more successful. The Union Democrat lasted over ten months. It was commenced by Samuel Fabyan, a printer from Boston, July 31, 1852, and closed Oct. 6, when it was removed to Boston. The office was in Bowker's building. It was published on Wednesday and Saturday.

48. **MASSACHUSETTS FREEMAN.** This was the title of a weekly free soil paper, published for a short time by J. E. Pomfret, commencing June 8, 1853. It was made up from the columns of the Essex Co. Freeman. Mr. Pomfret, previous to his commencement in Salem, had published several papers, the last of which was the Amesbury Villager. He was a minister of the Universalist persuasion, and is now settled in Haverhill.

49. **THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.** This paper was begun in Marblehead, in November 1847, by Rev. Robinson Breare, a Universalist minister, and bore the title of "The Marblehead Mercury." In 1848, it became the property of James Coffin and Daniel R. Beckford. In 1849 it was entitled "The People's Advocate and Marblehead Mercury," and in August of that year Mr. Coffin became sole proprietor. In Oct. 1853, it abandoned its neutral position in favor of the advocacy of the views of the democratic party. In October, 1854, the printing office was moved to Salem, and the title of the paper was abbreviated to "The People's Advocate." It is now published weekly, on Saturday, at No. 8, Derby Square.

50. SALEM DAILY JOURNAL. The second attempt to establish a daily penny paper in Salem, was made by Edwin Lawrence, in 1854. He published the first number of the "Salem Daily Journal" on the 24th of July, of that year. It was published in the afternoon, as the Chronicle had been in 1848. The experiment was not successful, and the publication was abandoned November 24, 1855, after a trial of over a year. The Journal was at first neutral, afterwards favorable to the Native American party, and in the fall of 1855 approved the Republican nominations. Mr. Lawrence, previous to his removal to Salem, had published the Newburyport Union, Lynn Bay State, and Essex County Freeman.

The notice of the Daily Journal, the fiftieth of the list, concludes our brief account of the periodicals of Salem. The reader has doubtless observed that but few of these many enterprises have been permanently successful. Most of the journals which we have named, died in early infancy: only three of the whole number have survived a generation. The multiplication of newspapers during this period has been exceedingly rapid, and yet where one has succeeded perhaps fifty have failed. Often commenced merely as business speculations, rather than to meet the wants of the community, they have not been sustained by the public, because not needed.

When Mr. Hall issued his proposals for the publication of a "Weekly Publick Paper" in this place, such a vehicle of information was greatly desired. Newspapers were few in number and confined to the large seaboard towns. They were looked for and read in the country with the deepest interest. The appearance of the weekly sheet was an event of importance to people of all classes. Now they abound everywhere. Almost every considerable village in the country can boast its local print. Then, the expense attending the publication of a newspaper was very great. Paper was scarce and costly, and other materials obtainable only by importation from the mother country. The style of the papers, in respect to typographical appearance, was quite inferior. The old Essex Gazette is a curiosity of the printer's art, although it was in all respects a superior paper for those days.

During the past fifty years the art of type-making has ad-

vanced rapidly, and wonderful improvements have been made in presses and other contrivances and materials employed in the printing business. The art of *wood-cutting*, has been, we might almost say, discovered, since the days when grotesque devices, clumsily executed, figured so extensively at the head of the little colonial journals. The rude wood-cuts which then were supposed to adorn the public sheets are curious and amusing exhibitions of the infancy of this delicate art, now so useful in elegant and cheap illustrations. If any one is interested to see the first difficult beginnings of the engraver's skill, he may find many singular specimens in Thomas's History of Printing—a valuable and rare work, now out of print. A few instances are also given in Mr. Buckingham's interesting Reminiscences of the newspaper press,—to which work as well as to the former one, we are indebted for some of the statements in this account. A comparison of the uncouth adornments of the papers of the Revolutionary period, with the exquisite wood engravings of Harper's Magazine, affords a contrast nearly as great as that exhibited by the toilsome operations of an old hand-press beside the wonderful rapidity of the lightning cylinder machines of the present day.

The ancient newspapers were of small dimensions, printed on large types, with clumsy presses, and upon coarse paper. Such were the early prints of Salem. They were less various in their contents than those of our time, and were made up without much order or method. They were less full and minute in respect to local and general information. But little effort was made to gather the countless fragments of news which now distend the columns of the public journal. In all these respects there has been a great improvement in the public prints. But in regard to honest industry and enterprise, public spirit, boldness and freedom of expression, patriotic and noble endeavor, we do not know that any superiority can be claimed for the modern journals. In these particulars the publishers of ante-Revolutionary times were generally worthy of the highest praise.

After the reading of his communication, it was

VOTED, That the thanks of the Essex Institute be presented to Mr. Streeter, for his valuable and interesting series of remarks, which so pleasantly occupied the evening's session.





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